

## GEORGIA Sector Descriptions

### Environment (\$800,000)

Proposed programs should focus on conserving biodiversity in natural and managed ecosystems within Georgia's protected areas and forests to maintain/increase carbon stocks sequestered in these ecosystems and reduce threats to global climate change. The program is expected to work hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Environment of Georgia, as well as USAID/Georgia Mission-funded environmental program. Examples may include efforts to redeem the catastrophic environmental effects caused by the recent conflict, in which as many as 500 ha of unique forests were destroyed by fire, including parts of the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. The program should seek innovative approaches to encourage the participation of local NGOs, private sector, communities and volunteers in various efforts to rehabilitate, plan and operate protected areas and forests. In addition, the program may focus on promoting trans-boundary cooperation on environmental issues, leveraging further support from Georgia's neighboring countries. The program may involve technical assistance, training, commodity support (e.g. procurement of sapling) and sub-grants.

### Women's Empowerment (\$700,000)

Proposed programs should accelerate private sector growth through the development of core entrepreneurial skills necessary for women to find jobs and start up new businesses. Interventions may focus on: providing free business development services and legal consultations to women who are willing to start up their own business; facilitating women's access to financial services; providing demand-driven professional training and re-training for women, and developing sustainable linkages between training institutions and potential employers to facilitate women's employment following completion of professional training programs; and creating new job opportunities for women through setting up new enterprises. A particular focus should be placed on targeting women-IDPs to address the economic effects of the recent conflict, help revitalize economic activity and rebuild livelihoods in the affected regions. The program should work closely with the Government of Georgia, as well as USAID/Georgia Mission-funded economic growth programs.

### Microenterprise (\$700,000)

The proposed programs will aim to assist local microenterprises to further develop their human and production capacities. Interventions may include: dissemination of best practice models; introduction of new technologies that increase productivity; development of training programs; strengthening linkages between the rural producers and larger-scale buyers in regional centers; facilitating access to credit by linking micro-enterprises with financial institutions; and providing targeted grants to micro-enterprises engaged in various strategic value chains. The project will work closely with Government of Georgia representatives to target interventions throughout Georgia that meet currently identified needs and development objectives. The program should also work closely with USAID/Georgia Mission-funded SME, rural development, and agribusiness activities in order to integrate targeted microenterprise interventions with other USAID activities.

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